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September 7, 2017

The Honorable Shinzō Abe
Prime Minister of Japan
2-3-1 Nagata-chō, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, Japan 100-8968

Dear Prime Minister Abe,

It was wonderful to meet you in Tokyo on May 30, 2017, when I traveled to Japan as part of a congressional delegation consisting of members of the House Armed Services Committee.

I represent a district that encompasses Orlando, Florida, and I write now to express my hope that longstanding efforts to establish a direct, non-stop flight connecting Tokyo and Orlando—to be operated by either Japan Airlines or All Nippon Airways—can be brought to fruition.

Japan Airlines currently operates direct flights between Tokyo and eight U.S. locations, namely New York, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Guam. All Nippon Airways currently operates direct flights between Tokyo and nine U.S. locations, namely New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle, and Honolulu. Neither airline operates a direct flight between Tokyo and the southeastern region of the United States, including Florida.

The fleet of aircraft operated by each airline includes multiple variants of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, whose range flexibility, fuel efficiency, and mix of business and economy class seating should remove any commercial or technological obstacle to opening this new route. I believe such a direct connection would be mutually beneficial to the people of Japan and the people of the United States, especially those living and working in central Florida.

As you know, the trade, foreign direct investment, and tourism relationship between Japan and Florida is exceptionally strong, and a direct flight linking Tokyo and Orlando would benefit from, and in turn strengthen, that relationship.

According to Enterprise Florida, a public-private partnership that serves as the state's principal economic development organization, Japan is Florida's 2nd largest import market and 8th largest merchandise trading partner. Total merchandise trade between Florida and Japan has been on the rise, exceeding \$7.2 billion in 2016. In terms of foreign direct investment, roughly 200 Japanese companies operate throughout Florida, including Mitsubishi Hitachi Power and Giken America in the Orlando area, accounting for over 20,000 jobs in the state. Finally, more than 270,000 Japanese

tourists travel to Florida each year, with approximately 55,000 to 60,000 annually visiting the central Florida area.

In short, I believe the economic and social rationale for a direct flight between Tokyo and Orlando International Airport is compelling. I further believe that there is broad support for such a flight among government officials, the business community, and the general public in both of our nations. It is my hope that the necessary steps can swiftly be taken to make this goal a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress